

What is ABS.Stat Beta?

Access ABS.Stat Beta

ABS.Stat Beta is an interactive free online tool that presents data in a searchable, flexible and dynamic way.

ABS.Stat provides you with two options:

- A web browser interface where you can view, query and download data; and
- Web services providing data in a machine-processable format using the Statistical Data and Metadata Standard (SDMX) allowing machine-to-machine mechanisms for accessing and sharing ABS data

The ABS.Stat web browser interface allows you to:

- Search and discover ABS statistics
- Query, view and download data - choose pre-packaged data or customise data to your own requirements
- View valuable metadata alongside the data
- Export data in a range of formats such as Excel and CSV as well as SDMX.

The ABS.Stat web services allow for the exchange of data between computer systems (the machine-to-machine services) facilitating the sharing of data through a programmatic interface across the internet. Three services are provided:

- Developer API - a RESTful API providing data in SDMX-JSON format
- SDMX-XML API - a RESTful API providing data in SDMX-ML format
- SDMX Web Service - a SOAP service providing data in SDMX-ML format

Full 'User Assistance' for both the web browser and web services is available from the top right hand navigation bar.

Selected datasets are loaded as soon as possible after their 11:30am release on the ABS website. However, data in the ABS.Stat beta release may **not necessarily be the most up to date**. You are advised to check the ABS website (www.abs.gov.au) for the latest data. We have created an [ABS.Stat release calendar](#) which provides expected dataset release and update information.

ABS.Stat uses software which has been jointly developed by a consortium of organisations including the Organisation for Economic Co-Operation and Development (OECD), the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the Australian Bureau of Statistics, Statistics New Zealand and others.

Access [ABS.Stat Beta](#) today and tell us what you think!

Why a beta release?

ABS.Stat Beta release allows users to try ABS.Stat and provide feedback, recognising there is still work to be done on enhancing the tool as it is in development and we know there are still some issues to resolve. We have compiled a [list of issues](#) identified so far and are working to rectify these.

This beta version does not include Australian financial year data or any quarterly data with reference periods other than the standard March, June, September and December quarters, for example, detailed quarterly Labour Force data which are issued in February, May, August and November.

Future versions of ABS.Stat will include financial year and all quarterly datasets along with delivery of the latest data with embargo controls similar to the ABS website.

If you find further issues please email us at abs.stat@abs.gov.au. We also invite you to provide your feedback on the overall design, content and usability of ABS.Stat via the 'feedback form' found in the 'getting started' box. The ABS appreciates your input - it will help us as we further enhance the product.

Why is the ABS developing ABS.Stat Beta?

ABS.Stat aims to improve access to multidimensional, aggregated ABS data. It is being developed in response to user demand for more powerful and flexible tools for research and data exchange. It will meet the needs of large data consumers (including, international organisations, Australian government and value added re-sellers) as well as providing a user interface for all users of ABS data.

Where can I find help using ABS.Stat Beta?

ABS.Stat User Assistance Material can be accessed from the left hand navigation bar. View our suite of Online Video Tutorials, Frequently Asked Questions and User Guides for both the ABS.Stat Web Browser and the SDMX Web Services.

This page last updated 14 October 2016

ABS.Stat Beta Release Calendar updated 14/02/2020

This calendar shows the expected release dates for publications that are accompanied by ABS.Stat datasets.

ABS.Stat datasets are typically available within 24 hours of the publication's release date.

Publication	Catalogue Number	Frequency	Current Reference Period	Date Last Updated	Next Expected Update
Economy					
Balance of Payments and International Investment Position	5302.0	Quarterly	September Qtr 2019	3 December 2019	3 March 2020
Business Indicators	5676.0	Quarterly	September Qtr 2019	2 December 2019	2 March 2020
Consumer Price Index (CPI)	6401.0	Quarterly	December Qtr 2019	29 January 2020	29 April 2020
Residential Property Price Indexes	6416.0	Quarterly	September Qtr 2019	10 December 2019	17 March 2020
International Merchandise Exports and Imports	5368.0	Monthly	December 2019	6 February 2019	5 March 2020
International Trade Price Indexes	6457.0	Quarterly	December 2019	30 January 2020	30 April 2020
Labour Force	6202.0	Monthly	December 2019	23 January 2020	20 February 2020
Private New Capital Expenditure and Expected Expenditure	5625.0	Quarterly	September Qtr 2019	28 November 2019	27 February 2020
Producer Price Indexes	6427.0	Quarterly	December 2019	31 January 2020	1 May 2020
Sales of New Motor Vehicles	9314.0	Monthly	December 2017	16 January 2018	Final Publication
Wage Price Index	6345.0	Quarterly	September Qtr 2019	13 November 2019	19 February 2020
Industry					
Building Approvals	8731.0	Monthly	December 2019	3 February 2020	3 March 2020
Mineral and Petroleum Exploration	8412.0	Quarterly	March Qtr 2019	3 June 2019	2 September 2019
Land Management Practices Survey	4627.0	Irregular	2013-2014	18 November 2016	TBC
Land Accounts	4609.4.55.001	Irregular	2006-2011	27 August 2015	TBC
Retail Trade	8501.0	Monthly	June 2019	2 August 2019	3 September 2019
Population/People					
Births	3301.0	Annual	2018	11 December 2019	TBC
Deaths	3302.0	Annual	2018	25 September 2019	TBC
Apparent Consumption of Alcohol	4307.0.55.001	Annual	2017-18	9 September 2019	TBC
Regional Population Growth, Australia	3218.0	Annual	2017-2018	27 March 2019	25 March 2020
Annual Population Estimates (ERP) by Sex, Age, Regions of Australia	3235.0	Annual	2018	29 August 2019	28 August 2020
Quarterly Population Estimates (ERP) - subset of 3101.0 (Australian Demographic Statistics)	3101.0	Quarterly	June 2019	19 December 2019	19 March 2020
Overseas Arrivals and Departures, Australia	3401.0	Monthly	November 2019	16 January 2020	18 February 2020
Migration, Australia, 2016-2017	3412.0	Annual	2017-2018	3 April 2019	4 April 2020
Population Projections, Australia, 2017 to 2066	3222.0	Irregular	2017- 2066	26 November 2018	TBC

Data by Region	1410.0	Annual	2013-2018	17 May 2019	TBC
Australian Census Longitudinal Dataset (ACLD)	2080.0	Irregular	2006-2011	18 December 2013	TBC
Household and Family Projections 2016 to 2041	3236.0	Irregular	2016-2041	14 March 2019	TBC
2016 Census of Population and Housing	2901.0	Irregular	2016	26 July 2017	TBC
Census of Population and Housing: Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA), Australia, 2011	2033.0.55.001	Irregular	2016	27 March 2018	TBC

This page first published 30 November 2012, last updated 14 February 2020

Known Issues with the ABS.Stat Beta release

Here are the issues we know about (as at October 2016) which we are working to resolve.

Functionality

- The "Find in Themes" search does not advise you if there are no search results, so it looks as though a search has not been performed. You may wish to use the drop-down menu to search for themes.
- The date and time stamp is currently GMT (Greenwich Mean Time) but we are investigating whether we can change this to AEST.
- ABS.Stat currently times out after 20 minutes of inactivity. You will need to refresh your browser, however you will then lose any selections and layout changes you have made. We are currently looking at extending the time period before a time out occurs.
- ABS.Stat does not display release information.

Visual

- Large column labels do not wrap, making it hard to read compressed descriptions.
- Dimension hierarchies display incorrectly in the Customise Selection window if you choose to view 'All Dimensions.' The hierarchy will display correctly elsewhere in ABS.Stat table and any exports.
- The button to sort columns in ascending or descending order will not toggle off if the 'Hide empty rows' option is checked under 'Customise -> Table options'

Product Limitations

- There is no facility to save queries.
- Does not include Australian financial year data or any quarterly data with reference periods other than the standard March, June, September and December quarters, for example, detailed quarterly Labour Force data which are issued in February, May, August and November. Future versions of ABS.Stat will include financial year and all quarterly datasets.
- As we do not load new datasets or update dataset series immediately following the 11:30am release, data may not necessarily be the most up to date. You should check the ABS website (www.abs.gov.au) for the latest data and we will continue to load new datasets and update dataset series, as soon as possible after the embargo (11.30 am.) is lifted on the day the data is released.
- Time Series IDs are not yet available within the product. These will be included in a future release of ABS.Stat.
- It is not possible to print data directly from the browser in ABS.Stat. Printing is available by exporting to Excel.

ABS.Stat User Assistance Material

[Web Browser User Guide](#)

Everything you need to know about how to use the ABS.Stat web browser interface, including how to find a dataset, view associated metadata, search for and select variables, customise tables, and export data.

[Web Services User Guide](#)

Everything you need to know about how to use the Web Services or Application Programming Interfaces (APIs) provided through ABS.Stat.

These services deliver data in machine-readable formats using the Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) standard. This user guide provides information on how to access and use ABS.Stat web services, including information on accessing RESTful web services to deliver data in JSON or XML formats.

[Frequently Asked Questions](#)

Answers to the most commonly asked questions about ABS.Stat web browser and web services.

[Online Video Tutorials](#)

A series of short videos demonstrating ABS.Stat and how to use its various functions.

This page first published 1 March 2013, last updated 7 October 2016

Frequently Asked Questions about ABS.Stat Beta

Answers to Frequently Asked Questions about ABS.Stat - Beta

Q1. What is ABS.Stat?

ABS.Stat is an interactive, free online tool that presents datasets in a searchable, flexible and dynamic way. ABS.Stat presents users with two options, a web browser to view, query and download data and a web service to facilitate machine to machine communication via the use of the Statistical Data and Metadata Standard (SDMX). The web service enables other organisations to interface with ABS.Stat and customise the data in their own environments.

The ABS.Stat web interface allows you to:

- search and discover ABS statistics
- query, view and download data - choose pre-packaged data or customise data to your own requirements
- view valuable metadata alongside the data
- export data in a range of formats such as Excel and CSV as well as SDMX.

Access to ABS.Stat is open and free of charge.

Q2. When will it be released and what statistics will be available?

ABS.Stat - Beta was released publicly on 14 December 2012. ABS.Stat provides a range of data released by the ABS.

Data in this ABS.Stat is not necessarily the most up to date, you should check the ABS website (abs.gov.au) for the latest data. We will continue to load new datasets and update dataset series, as soon as possible after the embargo (11.30 am.) is lifted on the day the data is released.

This version does not include Australian financial year data or any quarterly data with reference periods other than the standard March, June, September and December quarters. For example, detailed quarterly Labour Force data are issued in February, May, August and November and will not be included initially.

However, future versions of ABS.Stat will include financial year and all quarterly datasets along with delivery of the latest data with embargo controls similar to the ABS website.

Q3. How will ABS.Stat differ from the current publication of statistics?

Currently ABS statistics are available on our website as static Excel spreadsheets, PDF and SuperTable SRD (summary record database) file downloads. In contrast, ABS.Stat provides a dynamic and direct method of accessing ABS data through the use of dynamic tables and intuitive search functionality. ABS.Stat also provides web services in SDMX format for automated machine-to-machine data exchange. Like the ABS Census products, CData online and Census TableBuilder, ABS.Stat provides:

- multi-dimensional aggregated data
- support for pre-packaged tables and dynamic self-service pick and choose tables
- extendable data visualisation
- SDMX web data services for automated and efficient machine-to-machine data exchange

Q4. Who will be able to use ABS.Stat?

Anyone can use ABS.Stat as it is aimed at all users and consumers of our data. ABS.Stat has features that support easy selection of and access to data for those whose needs are simple and straightforward. In addition it has features that support the needs of those with more advanced and complex requirements. To learn more about using ABS.Stat please refer to the [ABS.Stat Web Browser User Guide](#).

Q5. Will ABS.Stat be free?

Yes. Like all the statistics available through our current dissemination methods including the ABS website, access to ABS.Stat will be free of charge.

Q6. Are there any special system requirements for ABS.Stat?

No. You will require the following standard internet access set-up:

- Broadband Internet access;
- Internet Browsing software: Windows Internet Explorer 6.0 or higher, Mozilla Firefox 2.0 or higher, Safari 3.1 or higher.

Q7. How can I use and consume the ABS.Stat web services?

High-end data consumers can use ABS.Stat web services to automatically extract datasets via machine-to-machine communications over the internet. Establishing ABS.Stat web services requires some technical knowledge. Both REpresentational State Transfer (REST) and Simple Object Access Protocol (SOAP) web services are available, and data can be retrieved in either XML or JSON format. Information about how establish web services is available on the [ABS.Stat Web Services User Guide](#).

Q8. What is SDMX and why is it relevant to ABS.Stat?

SDMX, or Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange, is an initiative to foster common, open standards for the exchange of statistical information. It aims to foster common standards and guidelines for the exchange and sharing of statistical data and metadata, where the two are presented together, with an emphasis on aggregated data. Inclusion of the metadata gives context to the data exchanged, and helps ensure that the information is immediately understandable and therefore more useful than if it was presented without the relevant metadata.

Common standards and guidelines created by the SDMX community enable easy access to statistical data and make data more comparable, more meaningful and generally more usable. For further information please see the [SDMX website](#).

Q9. How can I learn more about using ABS.Stat?

The [ABS.Stat Web Browser User Guide](#) will help you to become familiar with the functionality and features of ABS.Stat.

ABS.Stat Online Video Tutorials

To help you get started with ABS.Stat we have produced a series of short tutorials. You will need Flash Player/Quick Time Player to view the tutorials.



[1. Welcome to ABS.Stat](#)

Introducing ABS.Stat: what is it, why has it been developed, and what are the benefits and uses of this product?

Duration: 01:39

File size: 1.12MB



[2. A tour of the ABS.Stat Browser Interface](#)

A quick tour around the ABS.Stat browser to see what functions are available.

Duration: 03:44

File size: 4.02MB



[3. About ABS.Stat Metadata](#)

An explanation of what metadata is, including the various levels - Dataset, Dimension, Dimension Member and Observation and where to find metadata within ABS.Stat.

Duration: 03:29

File size: 4.97MB



[4. Accessing and Locating Data](#)

All about searching and browsing themes, tables and predefined tables.

Note: Video 5 - building customised tables will define and explain dimension and dimension members to you in further detail.

Duration: 03:21

File size: 4.31MB



[5. Building Customised Tables](#)

How to construct your own customised tables by selecting dimensions, layout and custom options.

Duration: 02:34

File size: 2.43MB



[6. Building Customised Tables: Selecting Dimensions](#)

Continuation of 5. Building Customised Tables: Explains selecting and de-selecting various dimension members.

Duration: 09:51

File size: 7.50MB



7. Other functions in selecting dimensions

Information on dimension member colour coding and searching dimensions. Demonstration of quick access to customised dimensions.

Duration: 03:33

File size: 3.89MB



8. Layout

Learn how to customise the layout of your table.

Duration: 03:19

File size: 4.20MB



9. Customise Table Options

How to modify characteristics of datasets to make your table more useable.

Duration: 02:07

File size: 2.42MB



10. Exporting Information

How to export your table to an Excel, CSV, or SDMX file.

Duration: 02:45

File size: 5.37MB



11. My Queries

How to combine two or more different queries.

Duration: 01:55

File size: 2.23MB